

Appl. No. 10/600,720
Amendment dated April 4, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action dated 10/05/2004

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants' counsel wishes to thank Primary Examiner Michael Cygan for the courtesy extended in the telephonic discussion conducted Thursday, March 10, 2005, with Applicant and Applicant's counsel. During the discussion, Applicant discussed the background for Applicant's invention and the long-felt need for the flow testing system and method set forth in the presently amended claims. As a result of that discussion, Applicants' counsel and Examiner Cygan discussed the overcoming of the present § 102 and 103 rejections by amendment of the claims to restrict the flow testing system and method to the use with catalytic converters, as well as a Declaration of Applicant in support of the long-felt need for such a flow testing system and method. Applicant has amended claims 1, 14-17, 20, 22-24, 30 and 31, and introduced new claims 32-34 in this Request for Reconsideration. Support for the claim amendments can be found, *inter alia*, in the Specification at paragraphs [0003], [0030], [0043], [0054], [0067], [0070], [0071] and [0073]. Applicant respectfully submits that in light of this Request for Reconsideration, the amendments set forth herein in accordance with 37 CFR §1.113, and the supporting Declaration of Applicant, the present 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103 rejections should be resolved in Applicant's favor.

II. Summary Of Final Office Action

Claim 27 is objected to as lacking antecedent basis for the phrase "said flow amplifier" within independent claim 22. In addition, claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16, 18, 22-24, 27, and 28 stand

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rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chriswell, U.S. Patent No. 5,808,188; claims 1, 7, 9-24 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Marple, U.S. Patent No. 6,647,758; claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chriswell in view of Henry, U.S. patent No. 6,715,343; claims 4, 6-8, 11, 25, 29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chriswell in view of Kral, U.S. Patent No. 6,412,334; claim 17 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chriswell in view of Adkins, U.S. Patent No. 5,214,969; finally, claims 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Chriswell in view of Gotchel, U.S. Patent No. 4,311,037.

III. Claim Amendments

With respect to the objection to claim 27, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 27 properly provided an antecedent basis for the phrase "said flow amplifier" that was recited in previously and currently amended claim 22; Applicant would request that the Examiner please specify if an objection still exists with respect to claim 27.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 14-17, 20, 22-24, 30 and 31 to indicate that the flow testing system and method set forth in Applicant's claims are configured for use with catalytic converters, for example, by providing an output coupling system configured for connection to a catalytic converter. As appreciated by the Examiner during the discussion, and as supported by Applicant's Declaration, there has been a long-felt need for the flow testing system and method set forth in Applicant's claims, and that the presently amended claims are not taught or suggested by Criswell, Marple or any of the other cited references or other prior art of record alone or in

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combination, i.e., none of the cited references could provide for flow testing of catalytic converters.

Applicant has also introduced new independent claims 32 and 34 which comprise subject matter substantially similar in scope to claims 1 and 22, respectively, with the general exception that any claim language regarding "at a single atmospheric condition" has been removed since that additional limitation is not necessary to overcome the Chriswell reference due to Applicant's other claim limitations.

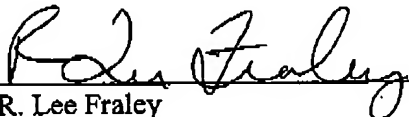
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, if the Examiner is not able to allow all of the claims at this time, withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action is requested. Further, Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions or if such a conversation may facilitate the allowance of the present application or withdrawal of the finality of the office action.

Respectfully submitted,

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